

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Twelfth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Twelfth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (596) reside in the Twelfth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (113) of Twelfth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 68.9% of admissions from the Twelfth Essex Representative District were male and 31.0% were female.
- Over 58.4% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 91.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.9% were black non-Latino, 3.2% were Latino, 0.5% were Asian, and 2.9% were other racial categories.
- 67.9% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.4% were married, and 11.9% reported not to be married now.
- 27.2% of admissions had less than high school education, 51.2% completed high school, and 21.6% had more than high school education.
- 40.4% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 8.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Twelfth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Twelfth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	553	441	173	186	143	129	72
FY '96	500	382	153	127	124	152	114
FY '97	448	359	149	113	65	115	80
FY '98	477	379	130	115	51	125	67
FY '99	441	351	147	134	59	103	81
FY '00	492	359	139	106	44	134	94
FY '01	596	440	175	147	40	160	86

- Since dropping in FY 1999, residents of Twelfth Essex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol and heroin use. Alcohol use increased by 25% and heroin use by 55%.
- Between FY 1999 and FY 2001, admissions reporting crack use decreased by 32%, while marijuana use increased by 19% and cocaine use by 9%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Twelfth Essex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	49.8%	23.8%	9.9%	4.9%	1.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine was higher within your District.